

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1, delete without prejudice and insert in lieu thereof:

- E1*  
*Sub D1*
15. In a method of heat treating bars, blocks and other tool steel workpieces the steps of
- providing a heat treatment furnace of a size suitable to receive a tool steel workpiece to be heat treated,
- A1* providing a heat source in the interior of the furnace consisting of a source of infrared heat energy,
- subjecting the tool steel workpiece to heat treatment by exposing said tool steel workpiece to infrared heat energy from the infrared heat energy source and
- maintaining said tool steel workpiece stationary during subjection of the workpiece to heat treatment from the infrared energy source.

Claims 2 and 3, delete without prejudice and insert in lieu thereof:

- E1*  
*Sub D1*  
*A2*
16. In a method of heat treating bar, block and other tool steel workpieces the steps of
- providing a heat treatment furnace of a size suitable to receive a tool steel workpiece to be heat treated,
- providing a source of infrared heat energy in the interior of the furnace consisting of tungsten halogen lamp means, subjecting the tool steel workpiece to heat treatment by exposing said tool steel workpiece to infrared heat energy from the tungsten halogen lamp means and